



MEETING MINUTES / 21 MARCH 2017

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Farley, Armbruster, Baldwin, Bradley, Coons, Hampton, Lardizzzone, McMullen(call-in), Newman, Sarg, Seppala(call-in), and Smith **85.7%**

Absences: Showell, Newstadt

Guests: Gary Morris (Military Order of the Purple Heart), Joseph Rodriguez (Del Vets Post 1), Jeani Long, Dave Skocik (Friends of Delaware Veterans), Vivian Starnes (DAV Auxiliary)

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:

During Moment of Silence, asked all to acknowledge deployers sent to Syria and around the world

MEETING MINUTES:

Approved

ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:

Wilmington VAMC – Ginny Yelland, Executive to the Director

Wilmington VAMC annual report, entitled "Here and Now" is available

Center contacted patients prior to last week's project snow storm to confirm appointments

- Successfully worked with patients

Federal hiring freeze presents issues, but some exemptions were approved

- CBOC Manager position was approved

Administrative supervisors for CBOCs will be in place providing leadership at the sites

Information Resource Fair was successful 37 Veterans attended

(Sarg) What is the status of the Sussex CBOC?

No opening date yet, design changes contributed to the delay, still slated to open this spring

(Bradley) Do you have any Sussex County Town Hall dates?

Not scheduled yet but they are done quarterly

Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) – Bill Peterson, Director:

Resident population 100, goal is to admit two per week to get to 120 residents

- 130 applications are in various stages of review

Bathing suite bids were \$24K under budget, work starts 1 May, no residents in Gold wing

- (Sarg) Are bathing suites going in all wings?

- Additional suites will not be funded and this impacts the Blue suite (desired bathing location)

Rate increases are a possibility and has to be discussed with the Department of State of Delaware

New food service director position is being advertised

Projected QA Administrator refused the proposed hiring

Social Worker position will be advertised

Home of the Brave, Director Jessica Finan:

Residents 14 males and 4 females

Drafting Grant and Per Diem grant request, funding to help chronically homeless Veterans

Bridge Housing involves a 90 day stay for those working with Supportive Services for Veterans and Families or those who have a housing voucher

Invitations were sent out for the 27 April / 1100 Open House

Bathroom remodeling worked by Milford Elks, they ensured bathrooms met handicap standards

DOL – Veteran Employment and Training Service, State Director, Dave Rich,

Not present

PUBLIC COMMENTS:**Gary Morris, Delaware Transit Corporation**

Project to increase transportation for Veterans to the Wilmington VAMC is on hold

- Focus was on transportation from Sussex, lower Kent counties

Questionnaire asking for transportation needs did not gather enough information

Pamphlet for Veteran transportation within Delaware is available

Discounted public transportation tickets for Veterans is an idea being considered

- Possible transportation for medical appointments or transportation on holidays

Dave Skocik, Delaware Veterans Coalition

Vietnam Veterans Recognition Ceremony 25 March / 1000 at Kent County Veterans Park

COMMITTEE REPORTS:**Bear Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Armbruster:**

Interments - 78

Millsboro Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Bradley:

Interments - 24

Pre-construction meeting 22 March / 1300

Health and Human Services, Commissioner Sarg:

Brain Injury Committee – Brain Injury Trust Fund provides assistance for facility modifications for those with brain injuries and/or strokes. There is \$50K in the fund

Brain Injury Association of Delaware Conference is 23 March / 0800 at Dover Downs

House Bill 14 – the Motorcycle Helmet Bill was defeated in committee that mandated helmet wearing while riding a motorcycle in Delaware, you are still required to have a helmet in Delaware but you are not required to wear it

Legislative Affairs, Commissioner McMullen

No movement on proposed legislative items

Considering support for a proposed bill to recognize military training for certain professional certifications

Commemorative Affairs, Commissioner Seppala

Bear Cemetery – 27 May / 1030

Bridge – 29 May / 1030

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:

Commissioner McMullen (AFSA)

Briefed DCVA activities during 8 March chapter meeting

Chapter cosponsored Airman's dinner for 35 dormitory residents on 15 March

Division 1 Convention is 22 – 25 March in Dayton Ohio
Professional Airmen's (National) Conference is 22 – 26 July in Reno Nevada

Commissioner Armbruster (AL)
National Commander's Delaware visit was 16 – 17 March
American Legion's legislative agenda is set for the 115th Congress
Post 7 Harrington is sponsoring a Car and Bike Show on 29 April
Band bash event on 13 May donations to support Veteran projects

Commissioner Bradley (AMVETS)
District two meeting to be scheduled for April
National Conference is 5 – 12 August in Norfolk Virginia
Auxiliary donated to Home of the Brave
Beef and Beer Fundraiser on 26 May, donations will support Delaware Veterans Trust Fund
National Commander is visiting sometime in May
Lewes Library has a display honoring Vietnam Veterans

Commissioner Smith (DELVETS)
Attended Medal of Honor ceremony at Wilmington monument on 27 February
Post 1 hosting Vietnam Veterans recognition on 31 March / 1800

Commissioner Lardizzone (DAV)
Organization met with Joint Military Committee on Capitol Hill
Harvest Ridge Winery Fundraiser 31 March and 1 April

Commissioner Coons (KWVA)
Dover Air Force Base Ruck March was 8 March donations made to Chapter 1

Commissioner Farley (MCL)
Departmental Convention is scheduled for May

Commissioner Sarg (MOAA)
Military spouse symposium sponsored by MOAA during Dover Air Force Base Transition Summit
- Learned 75% of jobs come from networking
Visiting Capitol Hill on 5 April

Awaiting Appointment (MOPH)
Nothing to report

Commissioner Seppala (MOWW)
Delaware Military Museum's Open House is 15 April / 1000
- Commemorating centennial of Delaware's impact during WW I
- Eight to ten rooms are dedicated to different conflicts

Commissioner Newman (VFW)
Medal of Honor Recognition Day celebration at Middletown post 25 March / 1100

Commissioner Baldwin (VVA)
First State Military Academy received Vietnam Veterans of America \$3K donation

Commissioner Newstadt (At Large)

Not present

Commissioner Showell (At Large)

Not present

Commissioner Hampton (At Large)

Not present

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

DVTF: Requests 10, Granted 8 (80%), Awarded \$7076.79 and Balance \$58,735.00

TERM EXPIRATION:

Armbruster 14 June 2017

Farley 14 June 2017

Sarg 14 June 2017

Seppala 14 June 2017

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

World War I Memorial (OPEN)

- Scheduled for placement 27 April at Legislative Hall

- Dedication will take place around Veterans Day

May Meeting with Lt Gen Timmons (OPEN)

- 16 May / 1000 meeting with convene at DNG Headquarters

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Bradley is interested in American Veterans hosting the August meeting at their post. Will formalize request after de-conflicting the projected 15 August meeting date

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION:

Commissioner Smith provided handouts/information on Wilson Smith, instrumental in honoring African-American Veterans around Wilmington

SPECIAL SESSION:

None

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, 18 April 2017 at 10:00 AM

LOCATION:

Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs